

### **The Blessing of Companionship** (Hebrews 13:5-6)

**Proposition:** Here in Hebrews 13:5-6 are three critical instructions concerning our individual companionship with God that if followed, will assure us of divine accompaniment.

#### **I. Heed the Precautions for Divine Companionship** (Vs. 5a-b)

A. The Caution of Covetousness (Vs. 5a)

B. The Call for Contentment (Vs. 5b)

#### **II. Hold the Promise of Divine Companionship** (Vs. 5c-e)

A. He Promises never to be Absent (Vs. 5d)

B. He Promises never to Abandon (Vs. 5e)

#### **III. Hope in the Product from Divine Companionship** (Vs. 6)

A. The Product of Confidence (Vs. 6a-b)

B. The Product of Courage (Vs. 6c)

## The Blessing of Companionship (Heb 13:5-6)

In December of 1977 the wife of J. Sidlow Baxter died. When a family friend called to express sympathies and offer assistance, Dr Baxter related his present condition. He said "I am lonely but not alone." Although that may sound like a conflicting statement, Dr Baxter was relying and relating his confidence in the promise of God that God will never forsake his own. The promise of God's constant companionship is the blessing and the birthright of every child of God, every person <sup>that</sup> owns Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The text before us today is the gem of promised companionship to be worn around the neck of every child of God. Here in Hebrews 13:5-6 are three critical instructions concerning our individual companionship w/ God that if followed will assure us of divine accompaniment and though we go through moments of loneliness, we can say with J. Sidlow Baxter "I am lonely

## Heed the Precautions for Divine Companionship

This last chapter of Hebrews seems to be a series of brief admonitions from the author. Instructions based on the



New Covenant arguments set forth in the previous

A. The Cautious of Caution - (5a) If you will remember, more often than not conversation in Bible, is not a verbal exchange, but the manner of life lived, the day today routine. That routine is to exclude caution. The word translated cautious is a word that literally means w/o affection for silver. The Love of money + possessions crowds out companionship w/ God. We live in a world that is consumed with caution. Always counting that which is just out of reach. Caution is engrained in the fallen seed of Adam.

B. The Call for Contentment - Someone once defined contentment as that point in time when your earning power equals your yearning power. Here in this passage it indicates "to be satisfied". "Wrest" all refers to the ability of the Christian dependent upon the Holy Spirit, to be independent of outward circumstances, "... things that you have..." In other words he is satisfied w/ your present circumstances. The present circumstances of the Hebrew readers were perilous, dangerous, <sup>(4)</sup>perilous, difficult times. Be Satisfied?

II. Hold the Promise of Divine Companionship

The promise of Christ's presence has been the bail safe of many a servant of God! Dr John Paton - veteran missionary to the New

1) ...I am lonely, but I am not alone.

2) ...previous chapters. Here in verse 5 before giving us the promise of Companionship, he cautioned the readers on that which would hinder experiencing companionship with God.

3) ...seed of Adam. One day Abraham Lincoln was walking along a street in Springfield, Ill, with his two small sons, both of whom were crying ceaselessly. A neighbor stopped and asked, "what's the matter with the boys?" "Just the same as what's the matter with the whole world," replied Lincoln. "I've got three walnuts and each of the boys wants two." Covetousness destroys the greatest of blessings in the Christian life the companionship of God. **Colossians 3:5** *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: God will not fellowship and companion with those that place objects above the Almighty.*

4) ...Be satisfied? How can you be satisfied with such isolating and defeating surroundings? The companionship of God by Jesus Christ, thru the Holy Spirit, tips the scales from defeat to victory!

1) ...of Christ's presence "I followed the guide." Of the promise of Christ's presence, Missionary to Africa David Livingston wrote in his journal, "It is the word of a gentleman of the strictest and most sacred honor."

2) ...or relax his grip. I was talking to another pastor the other day about the difficulty of being a parent and a pastor. I spoke of how often I am gone and absent from the lives of my children. How I feared that it be a great harm to my kids. He said, "be there as much as you can do your best. But the truth is that you can't be there all the time. You can't always be available to them. The only one that can fulfill that need is the Lord Jesus!"

3) ...leave you helpless. Warren Wiersbe wrote *"God has never forsaken you. You may have felt as though God abandoned you, but God has never forsaken you. If God forsook you for one second, you would die..."*

4) **Joshua 1:5** *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*



Hebrews and he Pleaching the promise of Christ presence  
A. He Promises never to be Absent -  
I will never "leave". Many a father today  
are what are known as "absent<sup>father</sup> fathers". They  
are simply not there to hold up to  
strengthen and encourage their children.  
The word leave here is preceded by a  
double negative, "I will not, I will not".  
God is saying that he will not well not be  
an absentee father. Some of you children  
and adults have lived all your life w/ the  
pain of an Absent parent. God has promised  
me never to leave. To walk out or relax his

B. He Promises never to Abandon -  
The word forsake here carries  
w/ it the picture of forsaking someone  
in a state of defeat or helplessness in  
the midst of hostile circumstance. "to  
abandon, desert, leave in a helpless  
destitute condition." When we are hounded,  
by blow after blow from life  
and the enemy, and in what seems to be  
the position to receive the knockout punch  
God says w/ triple negative emphasis "I will  
not, I will not, I will not leave you helpless"

III. Hope in the Promise from Divine Comfort  
Look at words "for He Hath said" Our promise  
is an O.T. quotation: Joshua 1:5. This  
very promise emboldened Joshua to lead a



negotiating, ill-equipped, outnumbered group of refugees

A. The Product of Confidence - The presence of God is enough, it is more than enough. Such a promise as this causes the child of God to roar like a Lion: "The Lord is my help". The intimidation of the isolation of life and the devastation from the difficulties of life melt away when we cling to the promise of God's companionship. I was locking up the church late last night. Evan w/ with me. I had to turn the light off and walk thru the church in the dark. I was 6 feet

B. The Product of Courage - From verse # 6 we have confidence when we look up and we have courage when we look out. "I will not fear." The phrase actually has the words "No Fear". Many skydiver from thousands of feet, jump from deadly cliffs, crawl into caves hundreds of feet into ground, jump motorcycles like haphazard artists wearing tee shirts - "No Fear". But fear lies somewhere. But only the child of God that cleaves to the companionship of God can honestly claim a "No Fear" lifestyle.

IV. Close - Oh the hymn writer had it right when he wrote "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not I will not desert to his foes, That soul the

- 1) ...refugees to conquer the inhabitants of the land of God's promise! This promise will do the same for you and I.
- 2) ...feet away from Evan when the lights went out. When I got over to him, I scened his fear as he frantically fumbled for my hand. Once he found my hand, he gripped and clasped to it as we walked through the building in complete darkness. I praise God that in the darkness and in moments of fear, we can hold to God's unchanging hand.
- 3) ...lifestyle. "What man shall do unto me." The phrase can me read as a question? What can anyone possible do to me? Much akin to what Paul said in: Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Vance Havner said: When you're accustomed to standing before God, kings don't matter much. Big potentates are small potatoes when you have been standing in the presence of the Most High.
- 4) ...soul tho all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake!" The reality is that God is, by his omnipresence, present with every one. But one day that will cease for those that refuse the offer of salvation.

11/01/09